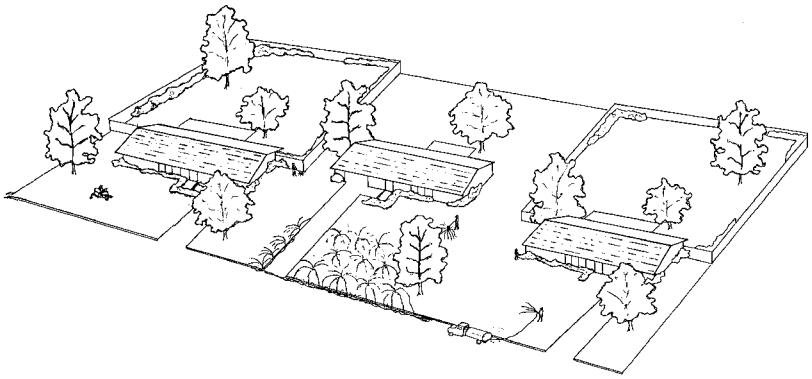
Notes for Water Watchers

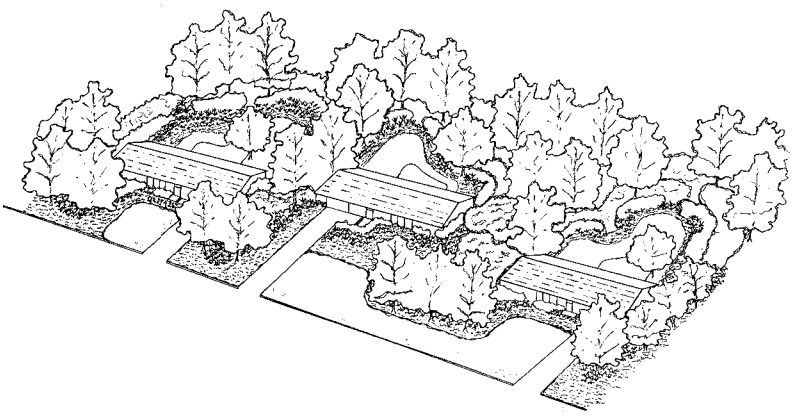
Kansas Department of Health and Environment

December, 1993 (Revised October, 1997)

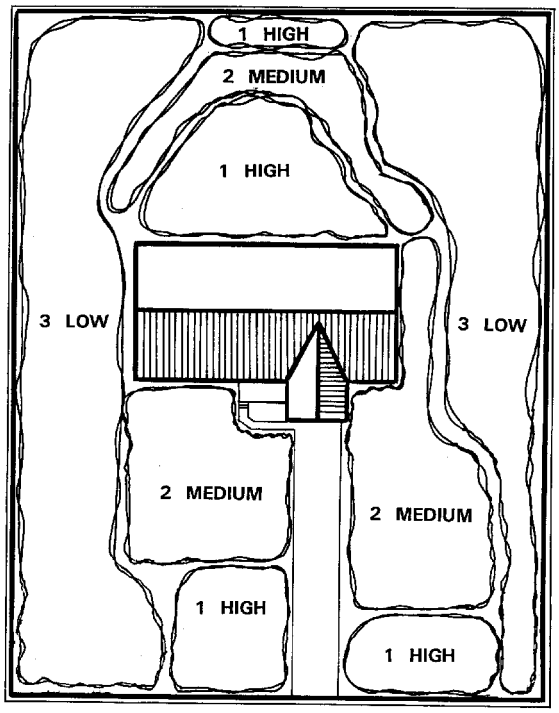
Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Through Residential Landscape Design



Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution is water pollution caused by widely dispersed sources of pollutants. Many NPS problems are associated with pollutants carried by runoff from rain and snow melt. Residential landscape designs with extensive turf areas require high amounts of water, chemicals, labor, and money to sustain them. Use of fertilizers, insecticides, and herbicides further impacts our water resources through improper use and disposal of leftover chemicals.



An alternative type of residential landscape design that reduces the impact on water resources uses hydrozones and Xeriscape. Hydrozones group plants together according to their demand for low, moderate, of high amounts of water. Proper plant location is as important as plant selection in a successful Xeriscape design. Native plants are extensively used to create large areas comprised of shrub borders, ground covers, perennials, and bulbs. Since the amount of turf area is drastically reduced, less water, chemicals, time, and money are needed to sustain them. Water quality can be protected through reduced concentrations of chemicals in runoff.

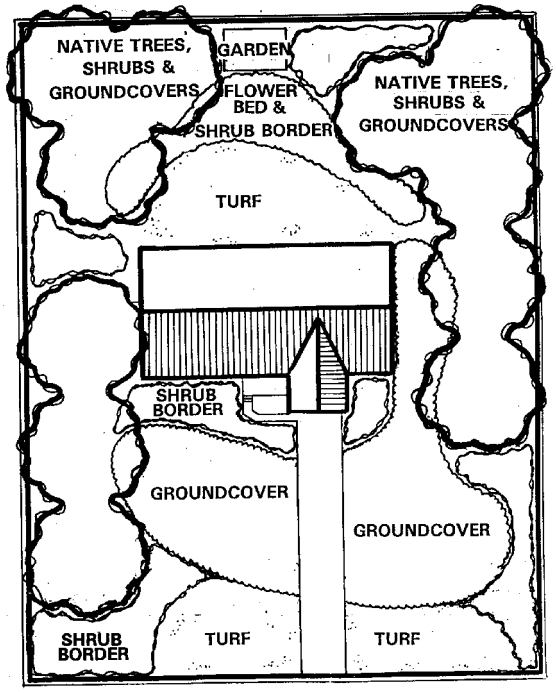


Hydrozone Concept Applied to a Suburban Lot

1. **High Water Demanding Plants**
2. **Medium Water Demanding Plants**
3. **Low Water Demanding Plants**

Fundamentals of Xeriscape

1. **Effective Planning and Design**
2. **Soil Improvement**
3. **Efficient, Zoned Irrigation**
4. **Limited Turf Areas**
5. **Use of Mulches**
6. **Use of Low Water Demand Plants**
7. **Appropriate Maintenance**



Questions?

Contact KDHE, Bureau of Water - Nonpoint Source Section, Forbes Field, Bldg. 283, Topeka, KS 66620-0001; (785) 296-4195. For additional information about Xeriscape, contact your County Extension Office.

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